

# **North Carolina's Spot Safety Program**

**Field Operations and Investigations Engineer**

**A. D. (Tony) Wyatt, P.E., P.T.O.E.**

**July 2006**

# SPOT Safety Mission Statement

**To systematically and objectively administer the allocation of limited SPOT SAFETY funds to those candidate safety projects across the State that provide the most benefit to the traveling public in terms of reducing injuries, fatalities, and motor vehicle crashes.**

**(As Adopted During July 8, 2004 Safety Oversight Meeting)**

# **SPOT SAFETY Program and Delivery Goals:**

- **Reduce Injuries and Fatalities**
- **Improve Traffic Safety**
- **To Quickly Correct Identified Safety Problems**
- **To Construct Projects within 12 months of Board Approval**
- **Effectively and Aggressively Address High Visibility High Profile Safety Problems**
- **Fund Construction of Effective Safety Improvements Across the State**
- **To correct Traffic Operational problems that create safety problems**

# Program Project Criteria

- Safety Projects :
  - new and upgraded traffic signals, turn lanes, curve improvements, warning devices, roadway appurtenances, and positive guidance improvements.
- Max. Allocation \$250,000.00 per Project
- May be Companion Funded

# SPOT Safety Project Cycle



# Safety Oversight Committee

Steve Varnedoe (NCDOT)  
Debbie Barbour (NCDOT)  
J. Kevin Lacy, PE (NCDOT)

Darrel Jernigan (GHSP)  
Herbie Tucker (NCSHP)

Eb Peters (GHSC)  
Tony Wyatt (NCDOT)  
Cindy Millikin (NCDOT)  
Terry Hopkins (NCDOT)

G. R. Kindley, NCBOT  
Doug Galyon, NCBOT  
Marvin Blount, NCBOT

# Decision Support Tools

- Establishment of Branch Program Manager
- Organizational Changes
- Spot Safety Index Tool
- Highway Safety Improvement Program
- Comprehensive Safety Evaluations
- Evidence -Experience - Knowledge based

# Safety Index (SI) Decision Support Tool

$$\mathbf{SI} = \mathbf{S} + \mathbf{Dg} + \mathbf{Cd} + \mathbf{Rs}$$

$$\mathbf{SI} = \mathbf{SAFETY} \text{ (60\%)} + \\ \mathbf{DEPARTMENT GOALS} \text{ (5\%)} + \\ \mathbf{CONSTRUCTABILITY} \text{ (5\%)} + \\ \mathbf{RESPONSIVENESS} \text{ (30\%)}$$



# Resources

- Spot Safety has traditionally been State funded at a level of \$9.1 million per year (not adjusted for inflation or growth).
- Over the past 12 months NCDOT has Applied roughly \$7 M in Federal Hazard Elimination Funds to Treating SPOT Safety Locations.

# Facilitating Progress

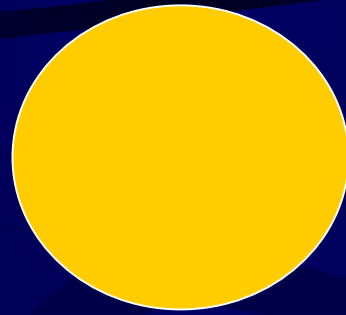
- NCDOT continues to explore other mechanisms, avenues and sources for getting Safety Projects “on the road.”
- Avoid the “insanity,” doing the same thing and expecting different results.
- Engineering and Evidence Based approaches to avoid creation of additional problem locations!

# Alternate and Companion Funds

- Federal Funds
- Discretionary Contingency Funds
- Small Construction Funds
- Economic Development Funds
- Maintenance Activities
- Prioritization Advantage for Innovative Use of Companion Funds to Help Extend the limited SPOT Safety funds

# Safety Project Philosophy

- Reducing Fatalities and Injuries
- Focus on Sound Safety Projects
- Executive Committee Strategies and Federal Highway Emphasis Areas:
  - Lane Departure
  - Intersection
  - Pedestrian



# Contact

Field Operations and Investigations Engineer

A. D. (Tony) Wyatt, P.E., P.T.O.E.

[awyatt@dot.state.nc.us](mailto:awyatt@dot.state.nc.us)

919-733-3915